

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 21625 271722Z
ACTION OES-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW
SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPORT
POLICIES OF MAJOR SUPPLIER NATIONS

REF: STATE 310540

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECOGNIZE THAT REFTEL REQUEST
POSES A SPECIAL PROBLEM FOR US HERE IN VIEW OF CURRENT
FRG SENSITIVITIES ABOUT POSSIBLE NEW US INITIATIVES
IN NUCLEAR EXPORT CONTROL AREA. WE SEE LITTLE
POSSIBILITY, FOR EXAMPLE, OF MAKING A CREDIBLE DIS-
CLAIMER THAT THE COMPILATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE
DATA REQUESTED IS ONLY AN "INDEPENDENT INITIATIVE BY
GAO" AND NOT THE INITIAL STEP OF SOME UNILATERAL US
ACTION, A STUDY IN SUPPORT OF PENDING PROPOSALS IN THE
NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS' GROUP, OR PREPARATION FOR THE
BILATERAL US-FRG DISCUSSIONS PROPOSED BY VARIOUS
GERMAN OFFICIALS AND REPORTED IN RECENT EMBASSY CABLES.

2. OUR RECENT REPORTS REVEAL THAT THE FRG IS SEEKING
SOME WAY TO ACCOMMODATE TO THE US INITIATIVES THEY
ANTICIPATE THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. THIS
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POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY MAKES IT PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRI-
ATE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE THE INQUIRIES REQUESTED IN
REFTEL OR TO PUBLICIZE IN ANY WAY A USG-PREPARED
OUTLINE OF GERMAN NUCLEAR EXPORT CONTROL POLICIES AND
PRACTICES. TO DO SO, COULD FIRM-UP THE GERMAN
POSITION AND MAKE SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATION UNNECESSARILY

DIFFICULT.

3. WE WILL RESPOND TO REFTTEL ASAP, DRAWING ON READILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND OUR PAST REPORTS AND VERY DISCREET CONTACTS. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT GAO BE ADVISED THAT A THOROUGH STUDY OF ALL GERMAN NUCLEAR EXPORT CONTROLS BASED ON DETAILED INQUIRIES AT THE VARIOUS FRG MINISTRIES AND ELEMENTS OF THE GERMAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE APPROPRIATE AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT ANY GAO STUDY OF FRG NUCLEAR EXPORT CONTROL PRACTICES AND POLICIES BE A LIMITED DISTRIBUTION DOCUMENT.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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